Indian territory in illegal occupation of Pakistan and China

3152. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large chunk of our land is under illegal occupation of China and Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to receive the land from those countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHR) *E.* AHAMMED): (a) to (c) India has outstanding boundary issues to be resolved with Pakistan and China. Pakistan has been in illegal and forcible occupation of approximately 78,000 sq. kms. of Indian territory.

China continues to be in illegal occupation of approximately 38,000 sq. kms. in the Indian State of Jammu and Kashmir. In addition, under the so-called "Sino-Pakistan Boundary Agreement of 1963", Pakistan illegally ceded 5180 sq. kms. of Indian territory in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir to China.

China also illegally claims approximately 90,000 sq. kms. of Indian territory in the eastern Sector of India-China boundary in Arunachal Pradesh.

India and Pakistan are committed under Shimla agreement and as reiterated in the Lahore declaration to resolve outstanding issues peacefully through bilateral dialogue.

India and China seek a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement of the boundary question through peaceful consultations. In the Declaration of Principles for Relations and Comprehensive Cooperation issued on June 23,2003, India and China have agreed to each appoint a Special Representative to explore from the political perspective of the overall bilateral relationship, the framework of a boundary settlement. Five meetings have been held so far between the Special Representatives of the two side.

India as a super power

†3153. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of remarks of American intelligence agencies that India will be one of the super powers in military and economic fields within next fifteen years which will result in changing the views of Asian and European countries towards India; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.